

19 May 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: C/AD/OJCS

SUBJECT : Protection of the Confidentiality of
Medical Information

1. Since the beginning of OMS's efforts to utilize computers to enhance administrative and professional activities, there has been a sincere concern to assure that any system developed would protect the privacy and confidentiality of medical information. Efforts to find a solution to this complex problem within the past year have involved steadily increasing amounts of staff time. At the OMS/OJCS meeting on this subject on 10 April 1975 both offices recognized a definite need to establish this effort as a separate project. In view of this, I would like to request that we establish a new separate project to develop a solution to the problem of protecting the confidentiality of medical information.

2. As you know, from our discussions and the discussions at the MAP meetings a minicomputer in OMS has been considered as one of the ways of solving this confidentiality problem. The D/MS on 15 April 1975 selected the option for a minicomputer in OMS from the five alternatives we jointly compiled at our 10 April 1975 meeting to handle the confidentiality problem. In order to allow sufficient time for further evaluation of this option and to accomplish the necessary steps in the acquisition of a minicomputer the D/MS and the D/OJCS have signed a memorandum of understanding that will enable OJCS to utilize \$50,000 of OMS funds in FY75 and OMS to utilize \$50,000 of OJCS funds in FY76, see the attachment.

3. In accordance with our meeting on 8 May 1975 OMS would like to have the following things addressed as part of the new project:

- A. Evaluate and select the best equipment to solve the confidentiality problems with data entry and printing in OMS for both CLINSTAT and MEDSIGN.

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- B. Enable data input, queries, output responses to CLINSTAT and MEDSIGN via peripheral hardware (probably CRTs with keyboards) located with various OMS components.
- C. In reaching a decision on Item A, take into consideration OMS's original and continuing requirements to provide the following services in the computer based information processing system (CBIPS) MEDSIGN and CLINSTAT.
 - 1. Chart locator system.
 - 2. Central appointment system.
 - 3. On-line medical history acquisition.
 - 4. Inclusion of the Ames Building Selective Processing Center information in the CBIPS.
 - 5. Interrelating MEDSIGN and CLINSTAT.
 - 6. Encryption-decryption routine resident in OMS to ensure 95% protection of data files in the OJCS Computing Center.
- D. Providing a centralized A-D conversion capability within OMS.
- E. Consideration by OJCS of OMS's requirements for applications and systems programming support in implementing the foregoing.

4. In thinking about a plan of approach for the project the steps outlined below are offered for consideration as an initial plan for the project:

- A. Refinement of user needs concerning confidentiality.
- B. Review of hardware alternatives to solve confidentiality.
- C. Prepare a Request for Proposal (RFP).
- D. Letting of RFP.
- E. Review of bids.
- F. Selection of the best proposal and final negotiation.
- G. Development of systems programs.
- H. Development of applications programs.

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5. Your comments on the suggestions outlined in the previous paragraphs are requested by 2 June 1975. I am hopeful and optimistic that we will reach an early agreement. Once we have done this, I am planning to submit a 2270 requesting the establishment of The Protection of the Confidentiality of Medical Information as a new project with a separate project number for accounting purposes.

STATINTL



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Medical Systems Development Officer
Office of Medical Services

Attachment

cc:

OMS/M :clp
Distribution:
Orig & 1 & Addressee
1 - MSDO
2 - D/MS Files

5 May 1975

OJCS # 1190145

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Joint Computer
Support

SUBJECT : Utilization of FY 1975 OMS
Funds by OJCS

1. This is to record our understanding concerning the utilization of approximately \$50,000 of OMS funds for the purpose of enabling OJCS to utilize these monies during the current fiscal year.

2. It is further understood that the above sum will be made available to OMS in FY 1976 from OJCS funds for the purpose of procuring ADP equipment.

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JOHN R. TIETJEN, M.D.
Director of Medical Services

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CONCURRENCE:

HARRY J. FITZWATER
Director, OJCS

Date

12 May 75